REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-8 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended and new claims 9-11 have been added to further distinguish Applicant's contribution to the art. As a result, claims 1-11 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 5 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

I.   Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the specification and abstract for informalities. The specification and abstract have been amended to address the noted informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the specification and abstract be withdrawn.

II.   Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 for informalities. Each of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 has been amended to address the noted informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

III.   Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, and 5-7 (including independent claims 1 and 5) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065073 ("Booth"). The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Booth in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0122947 ("Banerjee") and rejects claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Booth in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,149,773 ("Haller"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

A.   Discussion of Booth

Booth is generally directed to a network interface card (NIC) which allows for dynamic switching between different types physical layer standards (PHYs) for a network interface (Col. 13, lines 33-43). The system in Booth allows for multiple connections (e.g., via fiber-optic cable and via copper cable) between the NIC and a local area network (Fig. 5). As shown in Fig. 7, the NIC

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includes a link switching unit which enables switching between interfaces to a SERDES PHY
device and a G/MII PHY device .

The NIC also includes an auto-polling unit for monitoring the status of an established
network link (Fig. 11, Col. 18, lines 24-37). The auto-polling unit monitors the link by accessing
the status register of a currently selected PHY via a management interface (Col. 20, lines 6-8). A
value read from the status register by the auto-polling unit is conveyed to auto-poll registers which
also contain the most recently acquired status value (Col. 20, lines 15-22). The current status value
and the most recently acquired status value are compared and if there is a mismatch, an interrupt is
generated by the auto-polling unit to a host CPU (Col. 20, lines 23-31). The host CPU responds to
the assertion of an interrupt signal by requesting a read of the status register data which triggered the
interrupt (Col. 20, lines 32-39). If it is determined that the status of the established network link has
failed, the link switching unit enables a dynamic switching to an alternative network interface PHY
(Col. 18, lines 35-37).

      B.   <u>Booth Fails To Disclose or Suggest All Limitations of Independent Claims 1 and 5</u>

Claim 1 as amended recites, "[a] method for supervising a connection to a network of an
electronic apparatus including an access controller for detecting an electrical connection or
disconnection of a network cable, and a micro-computer comprising a non-event-driven type
operating system, the method comprising: detecting an availability of a digital signal received from
the network; supplying, in response to detecting the availability of the digital signal, a detection
output of said access controller as an interrupt signal to said micro-computer; and executing by the
micro-computer, processing for connection or disconnection of said network cable in response to
receiving the interrupt signal."

Booth fails to disclose or suggest "detecting an availability of a digital signal received from
the network" and "supplying, in response to detecting the availability of the digital signal, a
detection output of said access controller as an interrupt signal to said micro-computer" as recited in
claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Booth discloses an access controller as a network interface
card (NIC) and that the NIC supplies a detection output as an interrupt signal to said micro-
computer" (Office Action, page 4). Applicants respectfully disagree that the NIC of Booth supplies

a detection output in response to detecting the availability of a digital signal received from a network as required by amended claim 1.

Booth describes two methods in which the NIC monitors an active link of a computer to a local area network. In a first method, a host CPU continuously polls a status register in a currently established physical layer device at a predetermined interval (Booth, col. 16, lines 11-13). Alternatively, the system of Booth includes an auto-polling unit which monitors the link by accessing the status register of a currently selected PHY using a management interface (Booth, col. 20, lines 6-8). Neither of the monitoring methods disclosed in Booth teach or suggest detecting an availability of a digital signal received from a network. Rather, both of the monitoring methods in Booth poll a status register (either continuously or periodically using an auto-polling unit and a management interface), and compare a value in the status register with a previously read status register value to determine the link state.

Furthermore, in Booth, an interrupt signal is generated by the NIC when a mismatch is detected between the currently read status register value and a previously read value (Booth, col. 20, lines 27-29). In contrast, claim 1 recites, "supplying, **in response to detecting the availability of the digital signal,** a detection output of said access controller as an interrupt signal to said micro-computer..." (emphasis added). Because the system of Booth does not detect an availability of a digital signal received from the network when monitoring a network link, Booth also fails to disclose or suggest supplying a detection output in response to detecting the availability of the digital signal.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Booth, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and each of these dependent claims patentably distinguishes over Booth for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of each of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 5 as amended recites, "[a]n electronic apparatus comprising: a connector jack for connection of a network cable; an access controller for detecting an electrical connection or disconnection between the network cable and said connector jack **by detecting an availability of a digital signal received from a network**; and a micro-computer; wherein a detection output of said access controller is supplied as an interrupt signal to said micro-computer **in response to detecting**

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the availability of the digital signal, and a upon detection of the interrupt signal, said micro-computer executes processing for connection or disconnection of said network cable" (emphasis added).

As should be appreciated from the foregoing discussion of claim 1, claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Booth for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Booth be withdrawn.

Each of claims 6-8 depends from claim 5, and patentably distinguishes over Booth for at least the same reasons as claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of each of these dependent claims be withdrawn.

IV.   New Claims

New claims 9-11 have been added to further distinguish Applicants' contribution to the art. Support for these claims is found at least at pages 8-9 of the Applicants' specification.

Each of claims 9-11 depends from claim 1, and patentably distinguishes over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. S1459.70084US00.

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Respectfully submitted,

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WGS Date: x12/24/08x